

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 43 and 46 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claims 1-3, 7-11, 18, 22, 42 and 45 as follows. Note that all the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

1 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus comprising:

a communication ~~control means for receiving~~ controller configured to receive a read command from an external device, the read command specifying a memory address where data to be read out are stored; and

a memory for storing information about a device mountable on said information processing apparatus but is not mounted on said information processing apparatus, in a memory area, from which the external device can read out ~~data~~ said information about a device by using the read command,

wherein the device, that is mountable on said information processing apparatus but is not mounted on said information processing apparatus, includes an attachable part through which that device is attached to said information processing apparatus, and a function assist part for assisting a function of said information processing apparatus.

2 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising ~~transmission means for transmitting~~ a transmitttr configured to transmit information in the memory area in accordance with the read command from the external device.

3 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said communication ~~control means~~ controller comprises a communication control bus complying with an IEEE-1394 standard.

4 (Original): The apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the memory area is set in a configuration ROM defined by the IEEE-1394 standard.

5 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein position information unique to an electronic device is written in a node dependent information directory of the configuration ROM.

6 (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the memory area is specified based upon information held in an Instance Directory of the configuration ROM.

7 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said memory ~~means~~ stores, in the memory area, information indicative of a device that is mountable on said information processing apparatus but is not mounted on said information processing

apparatus and a device that is mountable on said information processing apparatus and has already been mounted on said information processing apparatus.

8 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus comprising:

a communication control means for sending controller configured to send a read command to an external device, the read command specifying a memory address where data to be read out are stored;

an acquisition means for acquiring unit configured to acquire information about a device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on said external device, from a memory area of the external device, by using the read command; and

a display control means for controlling unit configured to control a display based upon the information acquired by said acquisition means unit,

wherein the device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on said external device, includes an attachable part through which that device is attached to the external device, and a function assist part for assisting a function of the external device.

9 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said communication control means unit comprises a communication control bus complying with an IEEE-1394 standard.

10 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said

acquisition ~~means~~ unit accesses an Instance Directory stored in a configuration ROM defined by the IEEE-1394 standard to acquire information about the device that is mountable on the external device.

11 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein

said acquisition ~~means~~ unit acquires information indicative of a device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on the external device and a device that is mountable on the external device and has already been mounted on the external device, and

said display control ~~means~~ unit identifiably displays the device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on the external device and the device that is mountable on the external device and has already been mounted on the external device based on the information acquired by said acquisition ~~means~~ unit.

Claims 12. - 17. (Canceled)

18 (Currently Amended): A method of controlling an information processing apparatus, comprising:

a storage step, of storing information about a device, that is mountable on the information processing apparatus but is not mounted on the information processing apparatus, in a memory area that is accessible by an external device by using a read command that specifies a memory address where ~~data~~ the information about a device to be read out is stored;

a communication control step, of receiving a read command from the external device; and

a transmission step, of transmitting the information about the device, that is mountable on the information processing apparatus but is not mounted on the information processing apparatus,, held in the memory area, in accordance with the read command from the external device,

wherein the device, that is mountable on the information processing apparatus but is not mounted on the information processing apparatus, includes an attachable part through which the device is attached to the information processing apparatus, and a function assist part for assisting a function of the information processing apparatus.

19 (Previously Presented): A method of controlling an information processing apparatus comprising:

a communication control step, of sending a read command to an external device, the read command specifying a memory address where data to be read out are stored;

an acquisition step, of acquiring information about a device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on the external device, from a memory area of the external device by using the read command; and

a display control step, of controlling a display based upon the information acquired in said acquisition step,

wherein the device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on the external device, includes an attachable part through which the device is attached to the external device, and a function assist part for assisting a function of the external device.

Claim 20 (canceled)

21 (Previously Presented): A storage medium storing a control program for implementing a method of controlling an information processing apparatus, the method comprising:

a storage step, of storing information about a device, that is mountable on the information processing apparatus but is not mounted on the information processing apparatus, in a memory area that is accessible by an external device by using a read command that specifies a memory address where data to be read out is stored;

a communication control step, of receiving a read command from the external device; and

a transmission step, of transmitting the information about the device, that is mountable on the information processing apparatus but is not mounted on the information processing apparatus, held in the memory area, in accordance with the read command from the external device,

wherein the device mountable on the information processing apparatus includes an attachable part through which the device is attached to the information processing apparatus, and a function assist part for assisting a function of the information processing apparatus.

22 (Currently Amended): A storage medium storing a control program for implementing a method of controlling an information processing apparatus said method comprising:

a communication control step, of sending a read command to an external device, the read command specifying a memory address where data to be read out are stored;

an acquisition step, of ~~and~~ acquiring information about a device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on the external device from a memory area of the external device ~~but is not mounted on the external device~~, by using the read command; and

a display control step, of controlling a display based upon the information acquired in said acquisition step,

wherein the device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on the external device, includes an attachable part through which the device is attached to the external device, and a function assist part for assisting a function of the external device.

Claims 23-41 (canceled)

42 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus comprising:

a memory configured to store information about a device that is mountable on said information processing apparatus but is not mounted on said information processing apparatus; and

a communication unit configured to send the stored information to an external device,

wherein the device, that is mountable on said information processing apparatus but is not mounted on said information processing apparatus, includes an attachable part through which that device is attached to said information processing apparatus, and a function assist part for assisting a function of said information processing apparatus.

Claim 43 (canceled)

44 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to Claim 42, wherein the memory stores information about a device which is mountable on said information processing apparatus and has already been mounted on said information processing apparatus.

45 (Currently Amended): A method of controlling an information processing apparatus for communicating with an external device, said method comprising:

an acquisition step, of acquiring, from the external device, information about a device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on the external device;  
and

a display control step, of controlling a display based upon the information acquired in said acquisition step,

wherein the device, that is mountable on said information processing apparatus but is not mounted on said information processing apparatus, includes an attachable part through which that device is attached to said information processing apparatus, and a function assist part for assisting a function of said information processing apparatus.

46 (canceled)

47 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 45, wherein said acquisition step includes acquiring information indicative of the device that is mountable on the

external device but is not mounted on the external device and a device that is mountable on the external device and has already been mounted on the external device, and

said display control step includes identifiably displaying the device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on the external device and the device that is mountable on the external device and has already been mounted on the external device based on the information acquired in said acquisition step.